

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for conserving power in a computing unit, the computing unit including a plurality of components, the method comprising:

during a power saving mode, receiving at the computing unit a request from an external source;

determining which components of the computing unit are required to respond to the request;

selectively activating, from the power saving mode, the components of the computing unit necessary to respond to the request; and

responding to the request using the selectively activated components of the computing unit.

2 The method of claim 1, wherein the request comprises a request to retrieve a document from one of the components of the computing unit.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the request comprises a request to save a document on one of the components of the computing unit.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the request comprises a request to synchronize data between the computing unit and the external source.

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5. The method of claim 1 further comprising, prior to receiving the request, placing the computing unit in a power saving mode.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising returning the components of the computing unit to the power saving mode after responding to the request.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein only the components necessary to respond to the request are activated.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein responding to the request comprises transmitting instructions to the activated components necessary to respond to the request.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the instructions include retrieving data stored in one of the activated components.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the instructions include storing data in one of the activated components.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the request comprises authenticating the source of the request.

12. A system for conserving power in a computing unit, the computing unit including a plurality of components, the system comprising:

 during a power saving mode, means for receiving at the computing unit a request from an external source;

 means for determining which components of the computing unit are required to respond to the request;

 means for selectively activating, from the power saving mode, the components of the computing unit necessary to respond to the request; and

 means for responding to the request using the selectively activated components of the computing unit.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the request comprises a request to retrieve a document from one of the components of the computing unit.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the request comprises a request to save a document on one of the components of the computing unit.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein the request comprises a request to synchronize data between the computing unit and the external source.

16. The system of claim 12, wherein the plurality of components are in a power saving mode before the request is received.

17. The system of claim 12, wherein the means for selectively activating the components of the computing unit activates only the components necessary to respond to the request.

18. The system of claim 12, further comprising means for transmitting instructions to the activated components necessary to respond to the request.

19. Computer executable software code stored on a computing unit readable medium, the code for conserving power in a computing unit, the computing unit including a plurality of components, the code comprising:

during a power saving mode, code to receive at the computing unit a request from an external source;

code to determine which components of the computing unit are required to respond to the request;

code to selectively activate, from the power saving mode, the components of the computing unit necessary to respond to the request; and

code to respond to the request using the selectively activated components of the computing unit.

20. The code of claim 19, wherein the request comprises a request to retrieve a document from one of the components of the computing unit.

21. The code of claim 19, wherein the request comprises a request to save a document on one of the components of the computing unit.

22. The code of claim 19, wherein the request comprises a request to synchronize data between the computing unit and the external source.

23. The code of claim 19, wherein the plurality of components are in a power saving mode before the request is received.

24. The code of claim 19, wherein the code for selectively activating the components of the computing unit activates only the components necessary to respond to the request.

25. The code of claim 19, further comprising code for transmitting instructions to the activated components necessary to respond to the request.

26. A computing unit comprising:

a plurality of components in a power saving mode, each of said plurality of components being configured to perform specific functions of the computing unit;

a power management subsystem coupled to said plurality of components, said power management system being capable of activating from the power saving mode at least one of said plurality of components; and

a server, said server being adapted to receive a request from an external source and to determine therefrom which component of said plurality of components should be activated by the power management subsystem to respond to the request.

27. The computing unit of claim 26, wherein the request comprises a request to retrieve a document from one of the components of the computing unit.

28. The computing unit of claim 26, wherein the request comprises a request to save a document on one of the components of the computing unit.

29. The computing unit of claim 26, wherein the request comprises a request to synchronize data between the computing unit and the external source.

30. The computing unit of claim 26, wherein the power management subsystem is instructed to activate only the components necessary to respond to the request.

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